



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

IZUMI et al. Atty. Ref.: 925-280; Confirmation No. 6877

Appl. No. 10/748,140 TC/A.U. 2871

Filed: 12/31/03 Examiner: Schechter, Andrew

For: ACTIVE SUBSTRATE WITH PIXEL ELECTRODES MADE OF PHOTOSENSITIVE CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RULE 131 DECLARATION

We, inventors of the instant application, hereby declare as follows:

1. We are employed by Sharp Corporation, the assignee of the instant application, and we are listed as inventors of this application.
2. We invented the subject matter of the pending claims prior to March 13, 2000. Also, prior to March 13, 2000, we worked on and helped prepare the "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure" that is attached at Exs. 1-2 of the Kangawa declaration previously filed in this case. This "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure", dated March 10, 2000, was forwarded to the law firm of Aoyama & Partners on or about March 10-13, 2000. This "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure," dated March 10, 2000, is attached hereto

as Exhibit 1. An English translation of this "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure," dated March 10, 2000, is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

3. The first two pages of Exhibit 1, and the first four pages of Exhibit 2, relate to procedural matters. The remainder of Exhibits 1-2 describe the invention claimed in the above-listed patent application which has been assigned Serial No. 10/748,140. For instance, the "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure", dated March 10, 2000, includes five drawing figures which correspond to Figs. 1-4 and 7-8 of this application (Exs. 1-2).

4. Exs. 1-2 attached hereto and which we the inventors worked on to generate prior to March 10, 2000, the "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure" dated March 10, 2000, describe and illustrate a method of making an active matrix substrate comprising (referring to the English translation at Ex. 2):

- (a) forming switching elements disposed in a shape of a matrix, gate signal lines controlling the switching elements and extending in a first direction, and source signal lines connected to the switching elements and extending in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction on a front surface of a light permeable substrate;
- (b) forming an interlayer insulating film on the switching elements, the gate signal lines, and the source signal lines;
- (c) forming on the interlayer insulating film a negative type photosensitive transparent conductive material whose exposed parts are left in a pattern;
- (d) performing exposure from a back surface side of the light permeable substrate in order to expose the negative type photosensitive transparent

conductive material in a self-alignment fashion by using the gate signal lines and the source signal lines as exposure masks; and

(e) developing the negative type photosensitive transparent conductive material so as to obtain pixel electrodes by removing unexposed parts of the negative type photosensitive transparent conductive material.

5. The respective inventions of 10/748,140 are supported and described in the "Request for Japanese Patent Application Procedure" dated March 10, 2000 (Exs. 1-2).

6. The invention of the pending claims was diligently worked on from prior to March 10, 2000 until being filed with the Japanese Patent Office on June 2, 2000. For example, the Kangawa declaration filed previously in this case evidences diligence from March 10, 2000 through June 2, 2000. Additionally, we at Sharp received a draft of the formal patent application from the Aoyama firm on about May 23, 2000. We approved of the draft and sent notice of this back to the Aoyama firm which then filed the application on June 2, 2000 with the Japanese Patent Office, and is identified as JP 2000-165848.

7. In view of the above, the inventions of 10/748,140 were invented prior to May 16, 2000, and diligently worked on from a point in time prior to May 16, 2000 up until the filing of JP 2000-165848 on June 2, 2000, which constructively reduced the inventions to practice.

8. We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

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